

cause of the movement to excitable globules contained in the fluid of what he calls the cylindrenchyme of the stigma; this fluid being carried to the extremities of the cylindrenchyme, these extremities are dilated, which causes the stigma to bend in one direction; but when the stigma is touched, the globules and the liquid flow back to the bottom of the cylinders, and in this case, this side becoming the longest, the style erects or bends in an opposite direction: M. Morren therefore refers the cause to the excitability of a vital fluid.

In examining the stigmata of *Diplacus puniceus* and the different species of *Mimulus*, in order to ascertain if they contained any analogous structure to that described by M. Morren, I found the inner surfaces of the stigmata in all composed of elongated cylindrical cells, the ends of which are free and prolonged into tapering jointed glandular hairs: these hairs, which thickly clothe the surface of the stigma\*, are dilated at the extremities, and at the base where they arise each one forms a thickened elbow, with the cell of which it is the termination.

When the plates of the stigma are in their natural position these hairs are erect, but on examining them after the plates had collapsed, I found them gathered together into bundles of a dozen or more with their points drawn closely together, and in some cases twisted spirally round one another: in the stigma of *Mimulus roseus* each hair was recurved over its own cell. It is easy to conceive that such a movement of the hairs, forming as they do the extremities of the cylindrical cells, would cause the stigma to incline inwards, and it is probable that the natural cause of their movement is, as M. Morren asserts, the reaction of an excitable fluid.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH HENDERSON.

Milton, near Peterborough, July 13, 1840.

VII.—*A Note upon the Genus Decaisnia, Ad. Brong.* By  
Professor LINDLEY.

THIS genus, founded upon a Brazilian plant from the Island of St. Catharine's, was published by M. Adolphe Brongniart in the Botanical part of Duperrey's Voyage. It was admitted into the *Neottideous* tribe of Orchidaceæ in my Natural System of Botany, and by Endlicher has been equally adopted as a genus of the *Arethuseous* tribe.

\* In the stigma of *Goldfussia anisophylla* these hairs are shorter, more thickly crowded together, and less dilated at the points than in stigmata of *Mimulus* and *Diplacus*.

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In examining critically the genera of *Neottideæ*, I have been surprised to find that this *Decaisnia* is identical with *Prescottia*; a circumstance easily overlooked, since the species is somewhat different in habit from any of the *Prescottias* hitherto published, and is moreover so represented in the figure that accompanies M. Brongniart's memoirs as not to call to mind the peculiar cucullate fleshy lip and revolute floral envelopes of *Prescottia*. I find, however, that both these characters really exist in *Decaisnia*.

M. Brongniart relies upon the adhesion of the lateral sepals and labellum into a pouch, two pollen masses, and a pair of auricles to the anther-bed, as characteristic features of *Decaisnia*; but the first is equally the attribute of all *Prescottias*, and the others are of little moment. I am not able to ascertain whether the granular pollen masses are simple or two-lobed, although I possess an excellent specimen of *D. densiflora*, through the liberality of M. Ad. Brongniart, so very difficult is the examination of the minute fructification of these plants: but even if the pollen be as is represented in the figure in Duperrey's Voyage, it would not constitute, *per se*, a generic difference from *Prescottia*; and with regard to the auricles of the anther-bed, they occur in *P. plantaginea* itself, and in *P. stachyodes* form a still more striking feature in that part.

Although the name *Decaisnia* must therefore be abolished, I do not think it desirable to restore it to those Indian *Neottideæ*, originally so called by me, and afterwards, at the request of M. Brongniart, altered to *Cnemidia*, for this would be to increase the confusion of names. It will, I think, be better that some new genus should be taken to commemorate the distinguished merits of M. Decaisne.

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VIII.—On a new British Species of Colymbetes. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.

THE water Coleoptera of South Britain have now been so carefully studied, that it is far from probable that any new species should yet remain to be discovered amongst the larger forms; it is therefore with the greater satisfaction that I now introduce to the entomological readers of the Annals of Natural History a new species of *Colymbetes*, discovered by the Rev. J. L. Brown in Horning marshes, Norfolk, in the month of March, 1839, and again found in the same place in March 1840. This insect appears referable to the section *Agabus* of Erichson, in which the labial palpi have the third joint a very little shorter than the second, the claws being equal and

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